

Improvements planned for Bloomington parks



Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Regional Park Reserve is slated for improvements beginning this summer. The 2,611-acre park reserve, located in northwest Bloomington, is part of the Metropolitan Regional Parks

system. Jointly owned and operated by the City of Bloomington and Three Rivers Park District, City portions include Bush Lake, Normandale Lake, North and South Corridor, and Tierney's Woods parks.

Improvements scheduled to begin this spring and summer include:

- ◆ Replacing trees damaged by storms and high water at Bush and Normandale Lake parks.
- ◆ Developing a trail along the southeast shore of Bush Lake connecting East and West Bush Lake parks. (May require Department of Natural Resources and Watershed District approval.)
- ◆ Developing a disc golf course at East Bush Lake Park.

2004 projects

Improvements to take place in 2004 include:

- ◆ Installing children's playground equipment at West Bush Lake and Normandale Lake parks.
- ◆ Developing a bituminous trail along E. Bush Lake Rd from 84th St. through Hyland Park to 106th St.

Future projects

Projects proposed but not yet funded include:

- ◆ Restoring nine acres of open meadow to native prairie grasses and wildflowers at West Bush Lake Park.
- ◆ Replacing a timber retaining wall along the northern section of Normandale Lake Park Trail.
- ◆ Replacing three and a half miles of existing worn bituminous trails at Normandale Lake Park.

Public meetings

Plans will be reviewed by the Bloomington Parks, Arts and Recreation Commission. When appropriate, public meetings will be held for residents living within a quarter mile of a proposed project.

Funding

Funding is provided by the City of Bloomington and grants from the Metropolitan Council and the State of Minnesota. For more information, call Lance Anderson, Park Designer and Project Coordinator at 952-563-8738 or e-mail lanceanderson@ci.bloomington.mn.us. ◆

Adult Sports

Courts and Playfields

Valley View, 9000 Portland Ave. S.
Dred Scott, 10820 Bloomington Ferry Road

Bloomington Horseshoe Club

From May through August, the Horseshoe Club leagues will pitch weeknights at 7 p.m. at the Valley View Courts. The club is nationally and state sanctioned with league players receiving handicaps. To register for league participation, call Gene Gross at 952-831-0953.

Adult Tennis Lessons - USA Tennis 1-2-3

Level I - Instruction: Learn the basic skills with innovative teaching techniques, drills and games needed to start playing.

Level II - Supervised Play: Low-key doubles play. Learn strategy, tiebreakers, scoring, service rotation.

Who: Ages 18 and over.

When: Two lessons per week for three weeks.

Session I: Mondays and Wednesdays, April 14 - April 30.

Level I: 6 p.m.

Level II: 7 p.m.

Session II: Mondays and Wednesdays, May 5 - 21.

Level I: 6 p.m.

Level II: 7 p.m.

Where: Dred Scott Playfield.

Cost: \$45 per person for six one-hour lessons.

Class size: Minimum 4 students; maximum 8.

Register: Pre-registration is required.

Bloomington Women's Tennis Club

Organized in 1973, this club promotes new friendships by means of both a singles tennis ladder and doubles leagues. All levels of players, beginners to advanced, are encouraged to participate. Three doubles leagues will be offered again this year.

When: *Advanced Intermediate:* Wednesdays and Thursdays. *Intermediate:* Thursdays.

Contact: Deb Billion, 952-953-3107.

Men's Tennis Ladder - Singles Play

Offers beginner, intermediate and advanced levels of play with a minimum of one match per month.

When: June 1 - August 31.

Cost: \$27.

Register: By Friday, May 23.

Men's Doubles League

Find a steady partner and play once a week beginning in June. Maximum 12 teams per division.

When: *Advanced Intermediate:* Mondays.

Advanced: Tuesdays.

Time: 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Where: Valley View Playfield.

Cost: \$74 per team.

Register: By Friday, May 16.

Senior Tennis Players Club

Bloomington Chapter 55 and Over

Interested in fun, exercise, and meeting people who enjoy tennis? Join this friendly and lively group every weekday morning at the courts. It's free!

WHEN: Monday - Friday, April 7 - September 26, 7 - 9 a.m.

Where: Valley View Courts.

Contact: Cliff McMinn, 952-888-4989.

WHEN: Monday - Friday, May 5 - September 26, 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.

Where: Dred Scott Courts.

Contact: Don Snyder, 952-830-9415.

Summer Sand Volleyball

Divisions: Women's and Co-Rec Leagues.

When: Evenings, June 2 - August 14 (10 weeks).

Where: Dred Scott Playfield.

Cost: \$175 Recreation Leagues. \$230 Refereed Leagues. Teams are responsible for bringing one recreation volleyball.

Register: April 28 - May 9.

Daytime Volleyball

Here is your chance to exercise and enjoy volleyball during the mornings. All games are played at the Bloomington National Guard Training Center, 3300 W. 98th Street. You don't need a team - just show up because teams are formed each week.

When: All year, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Cost: \$1.25 per session. ◆

Shape up Challenge

This friendly competition between work sites encourages employees to shape up! Each work site coordinator receives special training and all materials needed. Every week employees record points, awarded for aerobic, strength training and flexibility activities. Trophies are awarded to the companies with the most points per employee. Sponsored by Parks and Recreation, this is a great way to introduce fitness, team spirit and a little fun into your work environment!

When: Apr. 21 - June 1.

Cost: Varies, based on total number of employees.

Contact: Chad Duerkop in Parks and Recreation. ◆

Bloomington Symphony Orchestra

Mahler's
Symphony No. 2
"Resurrection"

Music Director Akira Mori leads soloists Carolyn Pratt and Kathleen Humphrey and a 150-voice choir.

When: Sunday, May 11.

Time: 3 p.m.

Where: St. Michael's Lutheran Church, 9201 Normandale Boulevard.

Cost: \$10 adults; \$8 seniors; \$5 students.

For more information, call 952-881-4114 or visit www.bloomington-symphony.org. ◆

Bloomington Art Center

For more information, call 952-563-4777.

Gallery Players
present...Open
Poetry Night

When: Saturday, April 26.

Where: Bloomington Art Center Gallery, 10206 Penn Ave. S.

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Summer Session class catalogs now available by calling the Art Center or visiting us at www.bloomingtonartcenter.com. ◆

EARTH ACTION

For more information, call Recycling/Solid Waste Section at 952-563-8750.

May the grass always be greener in Bloomington

April is the time of year when Bloomington begins to turn green. Grass sprouts through melting snow and once ice-coated buds unfold into leaves. With thousands of trees and 3,500 acres of parks and open space, our city is a beautiful sight. Our quality of life is enhanced when we have a healthy environment and we need to take action to protect it.

Green living ensures that our impact on the environment is as minimal and positive as possible. As consumers, our daily actions consume the Earth's resources. What we buy, use and discard, affects the Earth and its ability to support us.

Implement green-friendly practices when you garden, build, care for your lawn and commute. For ideas on how to protect Bloomington's wetlands, lakes, rivers and parks, attend the Environmental-Clean Water Festival or the Living Green Expo. When you go "green," you can make a world of difference.

Take a bus,
carpool, or
walk to
work!



GO "green."



Use phosphorus-free lawn fertilizers and detergents.



Neighborhood blight.

GO

- ◆ Do your part, adopt a park or wetland in your neighborhood.
- ◆ Participate in the Curb-side Cleanup or Citywide Garage Sale. See page 7.
- ◆ Help neighbors who need assistance with yard and home care.



Pond scum.

GO

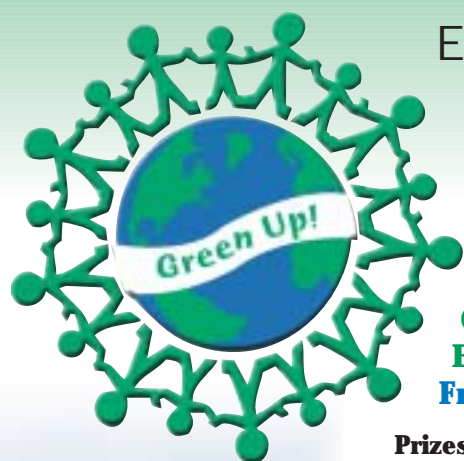
- ◆ Plant a buffer zone to prevent runoff into a water body.
- ◆ Rake leaves or grass clippings out of the street.
- ◆ Use phosphorus-free lawn fertilizers and detergents.
- ◆ Pick up pet waste immediately.



Wasteful consumption.

GO

- ◆ Carpool or take the bus.
- ◆ Condense your errand trips.
- ◆ Buy a fuel-efficient car.
- ◆ Install energy-efficient appliances and lighting.
- ◆ Reduce, reuse and buy recycled items. ◆



Environmental - Clean Water Festival

When: Saturday, April 12.

Time: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Where: Valley View Middle School,
8900 Portland Ave. S.

All ages welcome.

**Come celebrate the Year of Clean Water,
Earth Day and Arbor Day!
Free admission!**

Prizes!

- ◆ Help plant trees and enter a contest to win an eight-foot crabapple tree.
- ◆ Bring a phosphorus-containing product and receive a phosphorus-free product.
- ◆ Adopt a park, wetland or street and win passes to the Family Aquatic Center.
- ◆ Enter a drawing to win a Toro mulching lawnmower and a compost bin.

Exhibits and entertainment!

- ◆ Laugh along with the Toonies puppet show.
- ◆ Check out the equipment that keeps our streets clean.
- ◆ See live animals from the Minnesota Zoo Mobile.
- ◆ Learn energy and money-saving home practices.
- ◆ Get up to speed with off-road bicycle trail information.
- ◆ Build bird houses.

Lawn and garden tips!

- ◆ Native plantings, garden design and landscaping.
- ◆ Proper tree-pruning techniques.
- ◆ Diagnosing and treatment of unwanted insects and disease.

For more information, call Lynne Hanson at 952-563-4633. ◆



2003 Living Green Expo

When: Saturday, April 12, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sunday, April 13, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Where: Education Building, Minnesota State Fair Grounds,
1265 Snelling Ave. N., St. Paul.



Minnesota's Living Green Expo provides real solutions for people to live better, healthier lives with less impact on the environment. The expo will feature information on:

- ◆ Alternative and hybrid cars, new fuels, mass transportation, biking and carpooling.
- ◆ Home energy-saving and cost-cutting ideas.
- ◆ Renewable energy: residential solar power, wind power and geothermal energy.
- ◆ Home building and remodeling: green design, recycled and sustainable building materials.
- ◆ Organic, sustainable and locally grown foods.
- ◆ Earth-friendly household cleaners, recycling and water conservation.

For more information, visit www.livinggreenexpo.org or call Jeff Stuhr at 651-215-0218. ◆

National Youth Service Days

April 11 - May 3

Hey kids! Help clean up Bloomington parks, wetlands or neighborhood streets! Plant and mulch trees and shrubs at West Bush Lake Park and Valley View Pool! Service projects will be initiated through schools, faith organizations, and neighborhood and community organizations as part of National Youth Service Days. Youth who sign up and work on projects will be invited to the Mayor's Volunteer Breakfast Buffet and be recognized for their work. See sidebar.

Projects are coordinated through Bloomington Human Services, Parks and Recreation, Park Maintenance and Maintenance Sections. For more information, call Human Services Coordinator Kerry Stone at 952-563-8737; 952-563-8740 TTY or e-mail stone@ci.bloomington.mn.us. ◆

Mayor's Volunteer Breakfast

Mayor Winstead and Bloomington Councilmembers will recognize individuals who volunteered with City programs.

When: Saturday, May 3.
Invitations will be sent in April.

Time: 8:30 a.m. - 10 a.m.

Where: Marian Hall of the Knights of Columbus, 1114 W. 79th St.

For more information, call Kerry Stone at 952-563-8737.

Bloomington's clean past



Clean up, Paint up, Fix up in 1971

Forty years ago residents began hauling their unwanted items to the curb to help keep our city clean. It started with the “Clean up, Paint up, Fix up” campaign in 1963 with the “purpose of making Bloomington a safer, cleaner and more beautiful city.” In 2002, participation in the Curbside Cleanup was a record 80 percent. Over five weekends, residents disposed of 2,098 tons of household items, 68 tons of scrap metal, 486 yards of brush and 3,490 appliances. ♦

Brush with fame



In 1978, a Golden Trash Can Award was presented to the resident with the neatest, most attractive trash pile during the spring clean up campaign. The award went to Joan and Scott Murray, 8537 2nd Ave. So. According to the *Sun Current*, Scott Murray composed a rhyme that he placed on the pile because his wife, who was expecting a baby, got tired of running to the door to explain that the neatly piled wood was elm and would have to be debarked if it was to be stacked for fireplace burning. The poem read:

*This is elm wood
It doesn't do me any good
I give it to you with no disgrace
I haven't got a fireplace.
You may think this is a lark
What you take must be debarked
At home*

Note: Elm wood does not need to be debarked when disposing through the Curbside Cleanup. ♦

2003 Citywide Garage Sale



The Human Services Division presents the 4th Annual Citywide Garage Sale to be held May 1, 2 and 3.

Hold your own sale

Registration fee is \$19 and includes a yard sign, advertising and individual

listing in the official registry of sale addresses. Deadline is April 16.

Find the sales

Purchase your official garage sale list for \$1 beginning April 29 at City Hall and Creekside Community Center. Proceeds benefit the Senior Program. For more information, call the Human Services Information Line at 952-563-4957 V/TTY. ♦

Citywide Curbside Cleanup

Questions?
Call Recycling at
952-563-8750.



Cleanup schedule

Location	Regular trash day is:	2003 Curbside pickup is SATURDAY:
West of Normandale	Friday	April 26
France to Normandale	Thursday	May 3
Penn to France	Wednesday	May 17
Portland to Penn	Tuesday	June 7
East of Portland	Monday	June 14

- ♦ Put out materials no more than *two days* before your scheduled pick-up.
- ♦ Set materials at the curb *before 7 a.m.* on your curbside pick-up day.
- ♦ **Trucks will go through only once** on your scheduled day. If you miss the curbside pick-up, call your trash hauler who will pick up your refuse for a fee.
- ♦ **Seniors or residents who are disabled:** Unable to handle the materials? Contact your Neighborhood Watch block captains – or call the Human Services Information Line for volunteer availability, 952-563-4957 V/TTY. ♦

Options for items NOT ACCEPTED

Burnsville Landfill, 952-890-3248

- ♦ Concrete/bricks.
- ♦ Porcelain: Tubs, sinks.
- ♦ Shingles (No asbestos).

Hennepin County Problem Waste and Recycling Facility

1400 West 96th Street, 612-348- 3777 (3RRR)

10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday and Friday
10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Wednesday
8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday

- ♦ Hazardous waste: Paints, motor oil, solvents and other household chemicals.
- ♦ Tires and batteries.
- ♦ Electronic goods: TVs, computers, stereos.
- ♦ Recyclable materials: Bottles, cans, paper.
- ♦ Gas-powered, refrigeration appliances: Camper/other refrigerators, air conditioners – call ahead 612-348-5832.
- ♦ Small scrap metal items that fit into a car trunk.

Lakes Gas, 612-529-9276

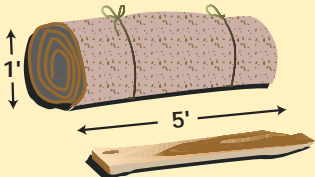
- ♦ Propane tanks.

NSP Composting, Burnsville, 952-736-1915

- ♦ Leaves, grass clippings, sod.
- ♦ Stumps, logs. ♦

ACCEPTED at the curb

- ♦ **General junk:** Boxed or bundled – under 100 pounds per item. *No scrap metal or household trash, such as food.*

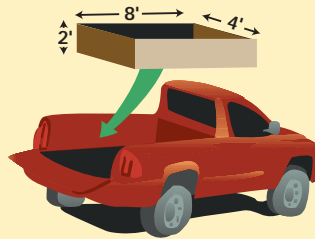


- ♦ **Carpets/pads:** Rolled and securely tied. Under five feet long and one foot in diameter – larger rolls are hard to handle.
- ♦ **Appliances:** Water heaters, microwaves, refrigerators, washers, dryers, stoves, air conditioners, dehumidifiers, freezers, etc. Limit TWO appliances per house. *For appliance pick-up, call 952-930-1828 by 4:30 p.m., the Friday before pick-up date.*

- ♦ **Larger scrap metal ONLY:** Office desks, clothesline poles, swing sets. Remove wood, rubber, cement - all non-metal materials. NO cast iron tubs or items over 150 pounds. Take small items to the Henn. Co. Problem Facility for recycling. *See left.*

- ♦ **Unusable furniture:** Disassemble hide-a-way sofa beds so they cannot open during handling.

- ♦ **Mattresses/box springs.**



- ♦ **Construction materials, lumber, windows and doors:** Pile limited to what fits in ONE level standard-size pickup truck. Lumber stacked and no longer than five feet. Bend nails. NO railroad ties. NO contractor materials.
- ♦ **BUNDLED brush:** Branches smaller than four inches in diameter and five feet in length. Includes buckthorn. ♦

Separate scrap metal

Scrap metal is a problem waste – it cannot be burned at the incinerator. During the cleanup only large scrap metal will be collected including:

- ♦ Large metal office desks.
- ♦ Clothesline poles.
- ♦ Swing sets.

Remove wood, rubber, cement or other non-metal materials from these items. Large pieces of scrap metal must be separated from other materials when you set out items to be collected. Cast iron bathtubs or metal items that exceed 150 pounds will be **NOT** be accepted. Small scrap metal items (those that can fit into an automobile) are not collected. Take these items to Hennepin Problem Waste and Recycling Facility. ♦

Different, educational...improvisational!



At times, getting audiences to participate or even to stay awake can be a challenge. Add dicey subject matter - sexual harassment, drug use, racism or bullying - and

sketches that present different viewpoints. Subjects are explored through a series of 30-second to two-minute scenes. After each scene, a

it's difficult to prompt discussion. Bloomington Improv generates audience involvement and discussion by performing

facilitator prompts an interactive dialogue between the audience and Improv participants. Comprised of Bloomington high school students, Bloomington Improv is a good communication tool for schools, large and small businesses, civic groups, and faith-based and other community organizations. For more information, call Drew Brooks, Bloomington Public Health, at 952-563-8984. ♦

Serving You

Bloomington Human Services has a lot to offer



The Bloomington Senior Program, located at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Ave. S., offers a variety of programs, activities and services to meet our community's needs. For more information, call the Human Services Information Line at 952-563-4957 V/TTY. For transportation, call 952-563-4948.

Trip the light fantastic

A spring dance will be held on Wednesday, April 23, from 7 - 9 p.m., at the Bloomington Armory, 3300 west 98th street Entertainment will include the Zurah Shriners' Jolly Nobles Band. Refreshments and door prizes will also be available. The \$3 donation at the door will benefit Shriners' Hospitals.

Get moving!

A variety of fitness opportunities for older adults are offered in the spring and summer including:

- ◆ Spring hiking.
- ◆ Creekside Cycling Club.
- ◆ 50+ Fitness.
- ◆ Tuesday/Thursday exercise.
- ◆ Co-Rec Bocce Ball.

Get online

Creekside Community Center offers computer classes tailored to the older learner. Subjects include: Computers for Absolute Beginners, Introduction to Personal Computers, Introduction to E-mail, Internet Basics, Greeting Cards and More, Windows Basics, Word Processing Basics and higher-level Word Processing. Costs vary with the length of the class.

Lab time is available to surf the Internet, practice computer skills or work on individual projects. Open Friday afternoons, the computer lab is managed by trained volunteers.

May is Older Americans Month

The Senior Program will host a variety of events to celebrate Older Americans' Month including:

- ◆ National Senior Health Fitness Day and Fun Walk.
- ◆ Spring Music Show.
- ◆ Special Life is Like a Valued Patchwork program.
- ◆ Older Americans' Month Breakfast.

Life is Like a Valued Patchwork April 23 Living with Arthritis



Take steps now to avoid arthritis, reduce pain and keep moving. An Arthritis Foundation representative will explain how to cope with pain, stiffness and emotional difficulties.

Programs are held at Creekside, from 9:15 - 10:30 a.m.

Senior Splash

Pick up the latest edition of *Senior Splash*, a quarterly catalog featuring programs, services and activities for seniors. The free catalog replaces the monthly *Creekside Chronicle* and is intended to reach a broader group of seniors. *Senior Splash* is distributed at public facilities throughout the community. ♦

Health Risk Assessment Clinics

Bloomington Public Health offers three low-cost screenings to test your cholesterol levels including: total blood chemistry, lipid

profile (total cholesterol, LDL, HDL and triglycerides) and cholesterol only. Health risk assessment clinics are held Tuesday, April 8, July 8

and October 14. To schedule an appointment, call Bloomington Public Health at 952-563-8900. ♦

Lower your risk

A high cholesterol level is one of the major risk factors for heart disease - the number one killer of Americans. Behavior and lifestyle choices that may lower your risk include:

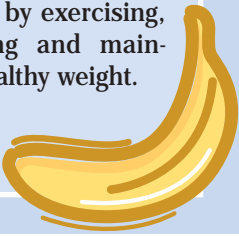
- ◆ Reducing total fat intake to no more than 30

percent of calories (no more than 10 percent from saturated fats).

- ◆ Eating more whole grains, fruits and vegetables.
- ◆ Using canola and olive oil in cooking.
- ◆ Increasing Omega-3 fatty acids: Eat fish 2 - 3 times a week.

- ◆ Not smoking.
- ◆ Exercising.
- ◆ Losing weight if overweight.

Most people can raise their HDL (good cholesterol) levels by exercising, not smoking and maintaining a healthy weight.



License your pet

All dogs and cats kept in Bloomington must be licensed annually. If your pet is unlicensed or the license has expired, visit City Hall,

2215 W. Old Shakopee Road, to obtain a current license. Hours are Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. A current rabies vaccination certi-

cate for each pet is required. For more information, call Licensing at 952-563-8728. ♦

Councilmember appointed to national committee

Bloomington Councilmember Heather Harden was appointed to the National League of Cities (NLC) Steering Committee for Finance, Administration and Intergovernmental Relations (FAIR) in January. FAIR studies and determines final policy recommendations that are presented to Congress as the needs of the nation's cities.

Harden's appointment benefits Minnesota because not all states have representatives on NLC steering committees. Councilmember Harden, a former member of NLC's Policy Committee, was endorsed by Minnesota's NLC delegation, including Karen Anderson, Minnetonka mayor and former NLC president. Bloomington Councilmembers that

also serve on NLC Committees include Mike Fossum, Public Safety and Crime Prevention Policy Committee, and Steve Elkins, Transportation, Infrastructure and Services Policy Committee, and Communities in Transition: Regional Development Committee. ♦

Bloominton Sister City presents... Taste of Japan

Looking for an afternoon of cultural fun, food and festivities for the whole family? Come celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Bloomington/Izumi City Sister City Organization with Taste of Japan.

The event will include stories of travel to Japan, cultural interactive activities, snacks and a formal Japanese dinner. A penny sale, raffle and silent auction will also be held. Taste of Japan is Saturday,

April 12, from 2 - 8 p.m. at Cedar Valley Church, 8600 Bloomington Ave. S. For more information, call 952-563-8735. ♦

Renovated Penn Lake Library reopens

The Hennepin County Penn Lake Library, 8800 Penn Ave. S., reopens for business with a celebration on Saturday, April 26, from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. The library closed in November 2002 for its first major renovation since it was

built in 1969. The library's interior has been redesigned to better meet the needs of a changing community including increased seating and a rearranged children's area. New enhancements include a teen area, adult reading

lounge, two study carrels and public conference room. A ribbon-cutting ceremony will be followed by a variety of performers, music and refreshments. For more information, call Marilyn Lustig at 952-847-5932. ♦

FamiLink Resource Center

Do you have questions about housing, legal needs, financial assistance, counseling or other issues? Would you like to know where you could get some help? Call the FamiLink Resource Center. Trained staff will help clarify issues, identify resources and options, and connect you to valuable community resources, services and programs. For information, call FamiLink Resource Center at 952-884-0444 or visit them at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Ave. S. ♦